

P21328.A03

Page 2, amend the paragraph after line 28 as follows (*clean copy, a marked-up version of the amended paragraph is submitted in Appendix 2 attached at the end of this Amendment*):

---The bituminous upper layer draining blanket comprises two superposed partial layers whereof the upper layer contains aggregate with low particle-size distribution and a modified bituminous binder, and whereof the lower layer contains aggregate with high particle-size distribution and a bituminous binder.---

Page 3, before line 1, insert and center the following:

4-DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION-*Ans*

Page 10, line 2, please change "CLAIMS" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:---

Please replace the Abstract of the disclosure with the Abstract as appended at the end of this Amendment and labeled Appendix 1.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please enter the following claims 10-29 for consideration by the Examiner:

---10. A bituminous draining road blanket comprising an upper partial layer and a lower partial layer wherein (a) the upper partial layer comprises a modified bituminous binder, aggregate having a first particle size distribution, and 2 % to 11 % by weight of filler material and (b) the lower partial layer comprises a bituminous binder and aggregate having a second particle size distribution which is larger than said first particle size distribution.

11. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 10, wherein the ratio of the second particle size distribution to the first particle size distribution is from about 3:1 to about 4:1.

12. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 11, wherein the first particle size distribution is selected from the ranges 2/4, 4/6 and 6/10.

13. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 12, wherein the first particle size distribution comprises at least 95 % 4/6 range.

14. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 10, wherein the second particle size distribution is selected from the ranges 10/14, 10/20 and 14/20.

15. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 13, wherein the second particle size distribution comprises at least 95 % 10/14 range.

16. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 11, wherein a void ratio of the upper partial layer is about the same as a void ratio of the lower partial layer.

17. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 12, wherein a void ratio of both the upper partial layer and the lower partial layer is about 20 % to about 30 %.

18. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 14, wherein a void ratio of both the upper partial layer and the lower partial layer is at least 25 %.

19. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 16, wherein the upper and the lower partial layers both have voids and an average volume of the voids of the upper partial layer is smaller than an average volume of the voids of the lower partial layer.

20. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 11, wherein the modified bituminous binder of the upper partial layer comprises (i) road quality bitumen, (ii) elastomer and (iii) bitumen containing less than 6 % of saturated products and less than 7 % of

asphaltenes.

21. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 20, wherein the modified bituminous binder contains at least 30 % of road quality bitumen.

22. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 21, wherein the elastomer comprises styrene-butadiene-styrene based elastomer.

23. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 12, wherein the modified bituminous binder comprises at least 3 % of elastomer.

24. The bituminous draining road blanket of claim 10, wherein the ratio of said second particle size distribution to said first particle size distribution is from about 3:1 to about 4:1, the first particle size distribution is selected from the ranges 2/4, 4/6 and 6/10, the second particle size distribution is selected from the ranges 10/14, 10/20 and 14/20, a void ratio of both the upper partial layer and the lower partial layer is about 25 % to about 30 %, and wherein the modified bituminous binder of the upper partial layer comprises (i) at least 50 % of road quality bitumen, (ii) at least 3 % of styrene-butadiene-styrene based elastomer and (iii) bitumen containing less than 6 % of saturated products and less than 7 % of

asphaltenes.

25. A road comprising a draining bituminous blanket on its surface, wherein said blanket comprises (a) an upper partial layer comprising a modified bituminous binder, aggregate having a first particle size distribution, and 2 % to 11 % by weight of filler material and (b) a lower partial layer comprising a bituminous binder and aggregate having a second particle size distribution which is larger than said first particle size distribution.

26. The road of claim 25, wherein the thickness of the upper partial layer is in the range from 1.5 cm to 2 cm.

27. The road of claim 26, wherein the thickness of the lower partial layer is in the range from 2.5 cm to 4 cm.

28. A process for providing a road surface with a draining bituminous blanket comprising two layers, which process comprises applying, by a road finishing machine and in one of a single pass and two successive passes, a lower partial layer and an upper partial layer, the upper partial layer comprising a modified bituminous binder, aggregate having a first particle size distribution, and 2 % to 11 % by weight of filler material and the lower